

# Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Survey

## 2006

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### **Abstract**

The number of pheasants seen during the 18-20 of April survey period by rural mail carriers per 100 miles driven was 0.68. This is a 17% decrease from 0.82 observed in 2005. The number of pheasants seen per observer decreased 18% from 2005 levels, and was 0.98.

### **Methods**

Survey forms were mailed in early April to postmasters in 32 counties across Wisconsin's pheasant range. Postmasters were asked to distribute the forms to their rural mail carriers. Carriers were instructed to record their route number, distance driven, and the number and sex of pheasants seen along their route on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday in the third full week of April. Data from the returned surveys were entered into the DNR UNIX production server and analyzed using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

In an effort to expand coverage of the Rural Mail Carrier Survey, Grant county was added in 1995 to the list of counties that were surveyed. None of the totals for Grant county will be used in the statewide totals so a long term trend can be observed.

### **Results**

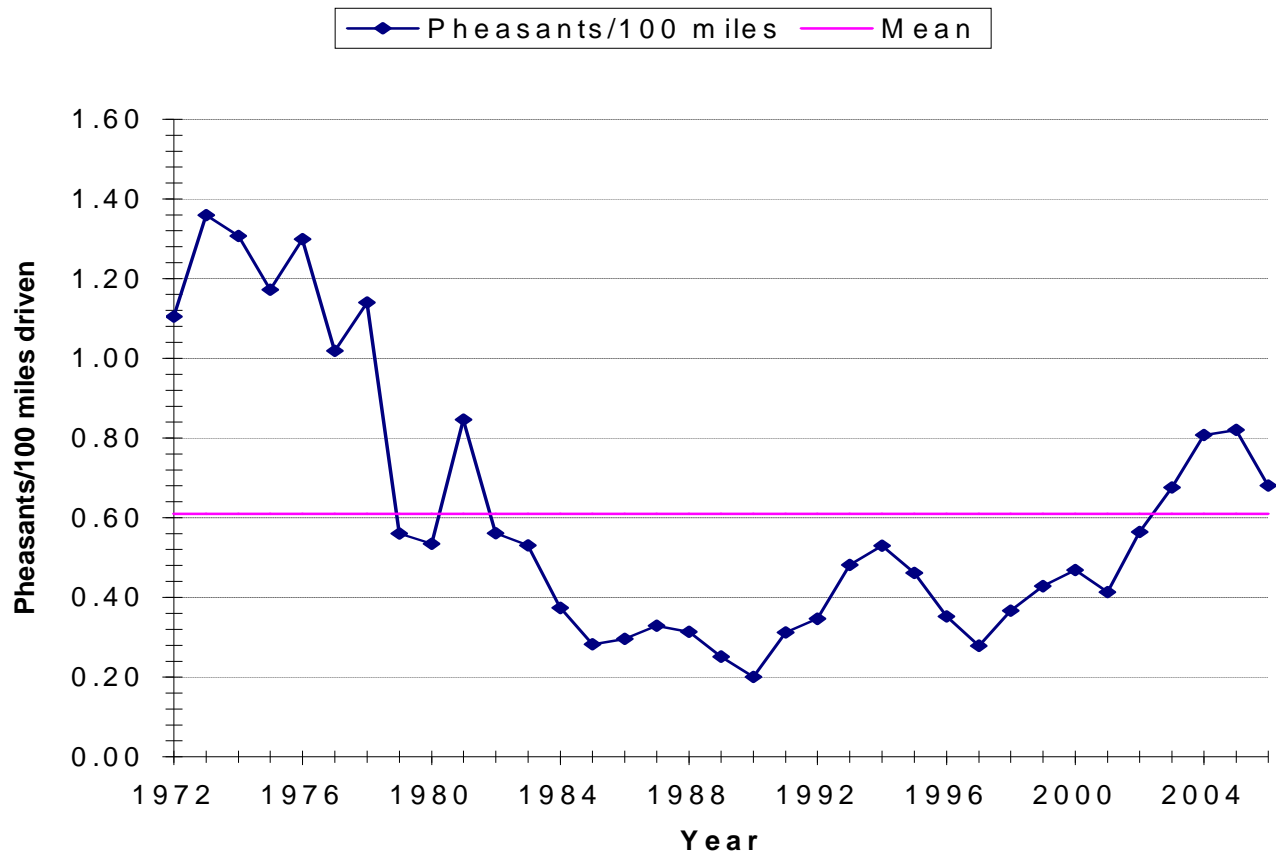
Rural mail carrier participation increased by 5% in 2006. Six hundred and seventy-six respondents saw 665 pheasants during the April 18, 19, and 20 survey period. This is a 15.7% decrease from the total number of pheasants seen in 2005. During the survey period the weather was clear to partly cloudy with above average temperatures, and little rain; probably above average survey conditions. The counties with the highest number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven were Lafayette (5.11), Ozaukee (2.42), Barron (2.39), and Green (1.77) (Table 1, Fig. 2).

The statewide average number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven decreased to 0.68 in 2006, a 17% decrease from 2005. The number of pheasants seen per 100 miles driven is higher than the long-term mean of 0.61 (Figure 1). The number of pheasants seen per observer decreased 18% from the 2005 levels, and was 0.98.

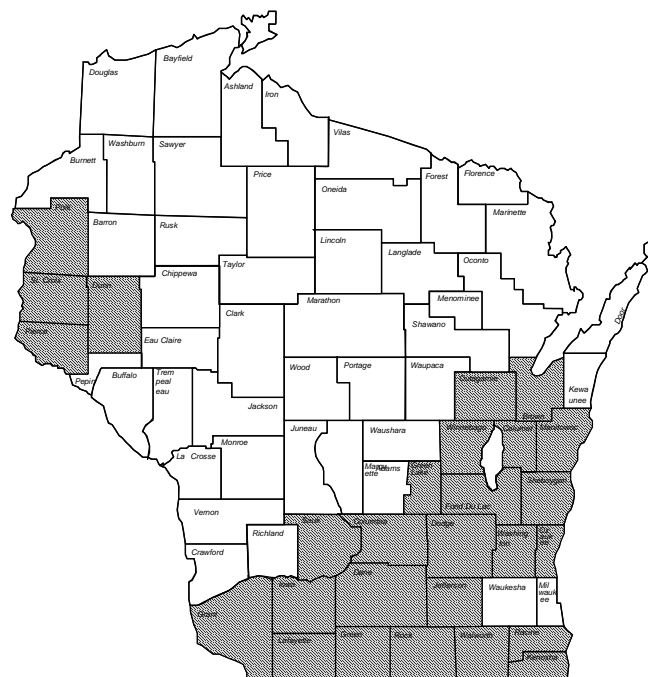
**Table 1.** *Rural Mail Carrier Pheasant Sightings 2004-2006.*

County	<u>Pheasants Sighted</u>			<u>Sightings/100 miles Driven</u>		
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005	2006
Barron	38	33	39	2.23	1.93	2.39
Brown	11	17	19	0.17	0.38	0.37
Calumet	2	4	8	0.08	0.19	0.35
Columbia	11	21	9	0.30	0.57	0.20
Dane	51	57	30	0.67	0.82	0.48
Dodge	30	20	18	0.77	0.71	0.41
Door	9	10	11	0.42	0.49	0.43
Dunn	6	26	24	0.51	1.01	1.11
Fond du Lac	34	51	43	0.79	1.13	1.14
Grant <sup>1</sup>	135	106	47	1.79	1.67	0.68
Green	26	2	46	1.22	0.11	1.77
Green Lake	24	7	7	1.16	0.33	0.35
Iowa	99	133	46	4.14	4.07	1.72
Jefferson	31	33	27	0.96	0.88	0.70
Kenosha	0	13	2	0.00	0.85	0.13
Kewaunee	15	2	2	0.65	0.07	0.10
Lafayette	85	130	75	4.79	8.90	5.11
Manitowoc	10	11	8	0.31	0.34	0.26
Oconto	9	6	14	0.38	0.25	0.54
Outagamie	34	7	11	0.89	0.20	0.27
Ozaukee	8	17	33	0.81	1.01	2.42
Pierce	49	28	18	1.60	1.06	1.25
Polk	37	33	26	1.03	0.88	0.71
Racine	3	6	1	0.11	0.22	0.03
Rock	23	21	33	0.49	0.57	0.61
St. Croix	49	44	39	0.76	0.92	0.76
Shawano	7	4	6	0.29	0.21	0.23
Sheboygan	28	17	16	0.77	0.51	0.47
Walworth	9	5	18	0.21	0.12	0.38
Washington	23	14	6	0.69	0.39	0.20
Waukesha	15	13	17	0.31	0.28	0.45
Winnebago	41	4	10	1.25	0.20	0.48
Unknown	0	0	3	0.00	0.00	1.12
Total	819	789	665	0.81	0.82	0.68

<sup>1</sup>Not included in totals



**Figure 1.** *Pheasants seen per 100 miles driven, 1972-2006.*



**Figure 2.** *Counties encompassing all or some of Wisconsin's primary pheasant range.*